

NOAA'S 1994 BUDGET REQUEST

Y 4. M 53: 103-18

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANOGRAPHY, GULF OF  
MEXICO, AND THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF  
OF THE

COMMITTEE ON  
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED THIRD CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 1994 BUDGET  
REQUEST FOR THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION [NOAA]

APRIL 20, 1993

Serial No. 103-18

Printed for the use of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries



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# CONTENTS

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	Page
Hearing held April 20, 1993.....	1
Statement of:	
Fields, Hon. Jack, a Representative from Texas, and ranking minority member, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.....	3
Josephson, Diana, Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce .....	5
Prepared statement.....	21
Ortiz, Hon. Solomon P., a Representative from Texas, and Chairman, Subcommittee on Oceanography, Gulf of Mexico, and the Outer Continental Shelf.....	1
Weldon, Hon. Curt, a Representative from Pennsylvania .....	2
Prepared statement.....	3
Communications submitted:	
Subcommittee staff: Memorandum of April 15, 1993, to members of the Subcommittee, on 1994 Fiscal Year Budget of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.....	15



# NOAA'S 1994 BUDGET REQUEST

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1993

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANOGRAPHY, GULF OF MEXICO, AND THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES,

*Washington, DC.*

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 1:51 p.m., in room 1334, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Solomon P. Ortiz [chairman of the subcommittee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Ortiz, Eshoo, Weldon.

Staff Present: Will Stelle, Tom Kitsos, Sue Waldron, Robert Wharton, Sheila McCready, Dino Esparza, Terry Schaff, John Aguirre, Mike Quigley, Dan Ashe, Chris Mann, Cynthia Wilkinson, Lisa Pittman, Eunice Groark, Laurel Bryant, Margherita Woods.

**STATEMENT OF HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS, AND CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANOGRAPHY, GULF OF MEXICO, AND THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF**

Mr. ORTIZ. The hearing will come to order. Good afternoon. I would like to welcome all of you here today on behalf of the Subcommittee on Oceanography, Gulf of Mexico, and the Outer Continental Shelf.

Today, the subcommittee meets to review the President's Fiscal Year 1994 budget request for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Over the years, Congress and the public have recognized the importance of maintaining NOAA's programs because they are so critical to the nation's coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes environments and their associated marine resources.

After reviewing the Fiscal Year 1994 budget proposal for NOAA, I see the total budget authority requested for Fiscal Year 1994 is \$1.92 billion which appears to be a 9.7 percent increase from last year's budget. However, I must say that I am somewhat concerned that the majority of the increase in NOAA's Fiscal Year 1994 budget is for its dry programs, while most of NOAA's wet programs have been left high and dry, so to speak. NOAA is proposing increases totaling some \$250 million for the Weather Service, the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, and the atmospheric programs under the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research while cutting the National Ocean Service and ocean and Great Lakes OAR programs by almost \$22 million.

I understand that NOAA considers this a peak funding year for the modernization of the National Weather Service. However, I be-



lieve that we must also ensure that the needs of our oceans and coastal areas are being properly addressed, and I hope that NOAA will continue to maintain its vital role in the preservation of our ocean and coastal resources.

I thank Deputy Under Secretary Josephson for coming here today to share her insight on NOAA's Fiscal Year 1994 budget, and we look forward to hearing her testimony.

Before I go any further, I would like to welcome the ranking member of the subcommittee, my good friend, Mr. Weldon, and I yield to him to make any comments or statement he wishes to make today.

**STATEMENT OF HON. CURT WELDON, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM PENNSYLVANIA**

Mr. WELDON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your yielding. I also appreciate your promptness in holding this hearing. I would like to thank Ms. Josephson for coming in today and look forward to her testimony. Several weeks ago, Secretary Brown testified before our committee. He testified on efforts regarding NOAA, and I believe his testimony was very supportive of NOAA and its efforts.

In reviewing the President's proposed budget for NOAA, I am pleased that many of the programs are cited for increases. I do, however, have serious concerns regarding some areas which I will discuss in more detail during the questioning. The first is an area that we recently held a hearing on, which is the National Undersea Research Program. This subcommittee had a hearing on this program and I was very impressed with the need to increase funding and put forth a real commitment toward the NURP program. I think decreasing that budget from \$16 million to \$2 million, however, is not indicative of a commitment to underseas research, at least not in my mind. I have serious concerns regarding this. I think members of this subcommittee would probably share that concern.

Secondarily, I agree with my Chairman—concerns that \$673 million of a \$1.9 billion budget for NOAA will go to dry programs. I think you are going to find that this subcommittee will aggressively state that our commitment is to the wet programs. This is not to say that we are not supportive of what is being done in the area of weather systems and new satellites; but we are going to be advocates for a more aggressive effort in water programs that come under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee.

Finally, I am concerned about the decrease in funding for NOAA's fleet modernization and shipbuilding conversion plan. While this is not the subject of this hearing, it will be a subject of a future hearing. It is certainly an issue that we feel strongly about and one that I am going to continue to press. I think if we are going to be consistent in our support for NOAA's operation, then these three items must be addressed at both this hearing and in future hearings. I appreciate this opportunity and look forward to engaging in a dialog on these concerns, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I would ask unanimous consent to submit my formal statement for



the record along with that of the Honorable Jack Fields, ranking Republican member of the full committee.

Mr. ORTIZ. Hearing no objection, so ordered.

[The statement of Mr. Weldon follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. CURT WELDON, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing today on the President's proposed Fiscal Year 1994 Budget request for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, otherwise known as NOAA. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Diana Josephson, Commerce undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere today. It is a pleasure to have you testify before our Subcommittee.

Without a doubt, NOAA plays a significant role in providing critical information on our marine resources, oceans, atmosphere and weather systems. However, in order to ensure that NOAA can continue to conduct adequate and innovative research, it is imperative that these programs receive appropriate funding.

As you may recall, when Secretary Brown testified before the Full Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries earlier this month, his comments strongly support the efforts of NOAA. Nevertheless, it is evident that while NOAA may serve as a cornerstone in our nation's efforts to protect the oceans and the atmosphere, this can not be done, however, without appropriate funding.

In reviewing the President's proposed budget for NOAA, I am pleased that many of NOAA's programs are slated for an increase in funding. While this is the case, I do, however, have some very serious specific funding level concerns that I will be discussing in greater detail today.

Of particular concern, however, is the serious decrease in funding for the National Undersea Research Program (NURP). As I am sure you know, this Subcommittee held a hearing on NURP last month in which the importance of effective and progressive undersea research was thoroughly examined. I think that the other members of the Subcommittee would agree with me that in order for this nation to continue to understand our nation's deep ocean areas, as well as maintain a competitive international edge, programs, such as NURP, must be adequately funded. Decreasing its budget from \$16 million to \$2 million does not indicate a commitment to undersea research in my mind.

Secondly, I was also concerned to learn that \$673.1 million of the total \$1.92 billion budget for NOAA will go to so-called "dry programs" such as the modernization of the nation's weather system and the construction of new satellites. While I understand the significance of an advanced and state-of-the-art weatherization system, I do have concerns this level of funding may impact the research and importance of some of the "wetter programs".

Finally, I am also concerned about the proposed decrease in funding for NOAA's fleet modernization and shipbuilding conversion plan. While the progress of this plan will be the subject of a future hearing, I feel that it is imperative that we examine the potential impact of decreased funding on the progress of this long-term research effort.

While these are some of my initial concerns, Mr. Chairman, I do look forward to hearing from Diana Josephson today on the budget and NOAA's priorities for the upcoming year. Again, thank you for holding this hearing and I look forward to working with you on a number of these very important matters.

[The statement of Mr. Fields follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. JACK FIELDS, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS, AND  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANOGRAPHY

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the speed with which you have convened this hearing, so soon after the President submitted his budget request to Congress. It would have been helpful to have the budget request when Mr. Studds and I were formulating the Views and Estimates submitted to the Budget Committee. Even without this information, I see that Mr. Studds and I were much more generous to the ocean side of NOAA than President Clinton.

However, I am pleased that the Administration is continuing to support several important programs that benefit the Gulf of Mexico, including \$750,000 for deployment of new current, wind, tide, salinity, and water level measuring devices in Galveston Bay and the Houston Ship Channel in Texas. Measurements in these areas were last taken in 1963 and more recent data are needed for navigation safety, environmental protection, and response to oil and hazardous waste spills.

Under this budget request, NOAA is continuing its commitment to States that are in the midst of creating coastal zone management programs, such as Texas. The very modest development funds provided under the Coastal Zone Management Act may make the difference in achieving sound coastal zone management for all our shores. NOAA also continues to champion the National Sea Grant College Program. I know that the program operated under the aegis of Texas A&M University has been a valuable resource to the region and is worth every dime invested in it.

NOAA also affirms its stewardship of the National Marine Sanctuaries Program. I trust that the Flower Garden Banks, the northernmost coral reef in the United States and currently operating on the most slender of shoestrings, will benefit from this support. This program is straining at the seams, with three new sanctuaries designated last year. NOAA must pledge adequate support for its existing sanctuaries and, with its investment in these special marine areas, should make greater use of these natural resources for research.

Finally, I am pleased with this budget's increased financial support for the Coastal Ocean Program (COP), one of the few NOAA programs tackling any critical environmental problems in the Gulf of Mexico. Two-thirds of the continental United States drains through the Mississippi River Basin into the Gulf, and the tremendous volumes of phosphorous and nitrogen can (and have in many cases) create low-oxygen conditions that harm marine life or encourage the growth of deadly alga blooms.

This being said, I have two major disappointments with this budget. First, I see that NOAA's commitment to an active, seagoing research vessel fleet is ebbing, even as Congress has found substantial resources to fund this initiative. There are some who say that NOAA does not need to have its own vessels, and that sufficient resources can be found in the private sector and through other Federal agencies. If NOAA does not want to maintain a fleet, and this budget gives me little confidence that it does, then I suggest that this may be a tack the Subcommittee can pursue in this year's NOAA Authorization bill.

I am also concerned that NOAA has not chosen to support the network of National Undersea Research Centers (NURC). The work conducted by the Centers is inestimable, and I had hoped to work with Chairman Ortiz to have a Center established for the Gulf, which is now overseen by the geographically overextended University of North Carolina at Wilmington. I still plan to pursue this project through the appropriations process, and I imagine that I will be joined by the many who have seen the very real benefits provided by the research conducted by NURCs.

In closing, NOAA should realize that with the November elections came not only a change in the White House, but a change in the Congressional leadership over its programs. Chairman Ortiz and I will be working diligently to ensure that the Gulf of Mexico receives its fair share of Federal attention. As an indication of our commitment toward that goal, I am pleased that the Chairman has scheduled a hearing this Friday in Corpus Christi on this very subject.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to hearing from Deputy Under Secretary Josephson.

Mr. ORTIZ. Before Ms. Josephson proceeds with the testimony, I would like to welcome and introduce our distinguished guest. Diana Rodian Josephson is currently the Deputy Under Secretary of Oceans and Atmosphere at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In the past, as NOAA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for Policy and Planning and as NOAA's Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Satellites, Ms. Josephson has gained extensive knowledge and understanding of NOAA's past, present, and future programs. Most recently, she served as the Martin Marietta Corporation's Director of Information to Planet Earth Studies.

Mrs. Josephson is accompanied by Mr. Andrew Moxam, Comptroller at NOAA. Again, I welcome you to this subcommittee and look forward to listening to your testimony. You can proceed. Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DIANA JOSEPHSON, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; ACCOMPANIED BY ANDREW MOXAM, COMPTROLLER, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION; NED OSTENSO, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH**

**STATEMENT BY DIANA JOSEPHSON**

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before you today in support of the President's Fiscal Year 1994 budget request for NOAA. I will try to address the areas that you highlighted in your letter of invitation, but before I do so, I would just like to describe the budget in broad detail.

The total NOAA request for Fiscal Year 1994 is \$1.92 billion. Of that total, \$1.76 billion are in the Operations, Research, and Facilities, the so-called ORF, appropriation. \$79.1 million are in the construction appropriation, \$23.1 million are in the fleet modernization and ship conversion appropriation, and \$2.95 million are requested for various fisheries funds.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fiscal Year 1994 request addresses three broad priorities. Weather service modernization has already proven to be critical to the safety of the nation's citizens. The Fiscal Year 1994 request contains an increase of \$217.5 million that now allows NOAA to proceed with the following components: First of all, Modernization and Associated Restructuring Demonstration and Implementation, so-called MARDI; Next Generation Weather Radar; Weather Forecast Office construction; Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System—this would be the AWIPS and the NOAAPORT; the Central Computer Upgrade; Automated Surface Observation Systems, the so-called ASOS; Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites; and the Polar-Orbiting system.

Maintenance of critical operations in fisheries, ocean and coastal management, oceanic and atmospheric research, weather services, and other core NOAA activities is a high priority requiring an increase of \$46.5 million. The National Marine Fisheries Service requires \$11.9 million in Fiscal Year 1994 to maintain essential ongoing operations and to avoid significant downsizing involving over 270 employees and the closure of a number of NMFS facilities.

Program increases of \$3.5 million in the Fiscal Year 1994 budget requests for the National Ocean Service are essential for maintaining staffing and current operations. Without these funds, NOS would have to cut back drastically on several services including geodetic activities and the operation and maintenance of tide gauges. Increased funding in oceanic and atmospheric research of \$7.7 million would be used to maintain the global greenhouse gas measurements program, address scientific issues associated with the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, and increase the activities of the Regional Marine Research program.

Investments in global change research and high performance computing increases totaling \$25.6 million are another NOAA priority. The Fiscal Year 1994 request includes an appropriations increase for NOAA of \$23 million for climate and global change ac-



tivities which would provide funding for NOAA participation in the U.S. Global Change Research Program and support for an International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, a commitment the United States made at UNCED.

The Fiscal Year 1994 request also includes \$2.6 million for the FCCSET program in High Performance Computing and Communications which will permit major improvements in the nation's ability to forecast the weather and predict climate change as well as stimulate gains in U.S. industrial competitiveness. NOAA has assumed its share of the responsibility for deficit reduction by proposing administrative and personnel savings of \$25.6 million in Fiscal Year 1994. In order for it to deliver more focused service, the Fiscal Year 1994 budget also includes a number of program decreases.

I will now detail the NOAA activities that have historically been of most interest to the subcommittee. NOS, NOAA's lead steward of the nation's ocean and coastal resources, requests funding of \$148.8 million in Fiscal Year 1994. NOS expects to have designated 14 national marine sanctuaries by the end of Fiscal Year 1994. The Fiscal Year 1994 budget proposes no change in the current funding of \$7 million for sanctuaries, nor in the current funding of \$33.5 million for Section 306. That is the State Assistance Grants of the Coastal Zone Management Act. I want to emphasize that the \$33.5 million requested for the CZM program is the same level as last year's appropriation; the first time in 12 years that level funding for the program has been requested.

NOAA's ocean budget for Fiscal Year 1994 also includes continued support for its crosscutting Coastal Ocean Program. COP will continue specific efforts to first of all determine impacts of nutrient loading in the Gulf of Mexico; also to understand fishery ecosystems, map changes in sea grass, wetlands, and watershed characteristics; evaluate the biological effects of toxic contamination; improve capabilities to forecast coastal hazards; and provide coastal managers and researchers with sea surface temperature products derived from NOAA's weather satellites. I want to emphasize that also for the first time in 12 years level constant funding for the Sea Grant Program has been requested.

The National Undersea Research Program, NURP, is also part of the Administration's budget request for the first time. Funding of \$2 million has been proposed to continue national programs including work undertaken with the Alvin submersible and other deep-diving facilities, research and diving safety, and technology development. Funding of \$4 million for the Regional Marine Research Program is requested for the first time.

NOAA requests \$23 million for the Fleet Modernization Program, a decrease of \$4.5 million from the fiscal year 1994 base with a 12-fold increase over the Fiscal Year 1993 request. Modernization will continue through Fiscal Year 1994 with the performance of critical and routine maintenance; the identification of detailed repair and construction requirements; the preparation of design and technical specifications; the transfer of two nearly new surplus Navy ships and the conversion of one of those ships to support oceanographic research and repair to extend the service life of one NOAA ship.

In recognition of the Gulf of Mexico's value to the nation, NOAA has focused its capabilities and resources on specific problems in the Gulf of Mexico states through its base activities and special programs. This includes a wide range of observational, assessment, research, management, and predictive services that are being used to address the growing concern over the environmental quality and economic sustainability of the Gulf's resources.

NOAA has approximately 1,500 employees at 90 locations among the five coastal Gulf of Mexico states. It maintains coastal and marine research facilities, National Estuarine Research Reserves, and National Marine Sanctuaries, oversees approved Coastal Zone Management plans in the three Gulf coastal states, and has direct ties to universities and colleges through the National Sea Grant Program.

NOAA also coordinates its efforts with other Federal agencies in the region. For example, NOAA is an active participant in four National Estuary Program sites in the Gulf of Mexico. It is also a full partner in the Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program located at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. NOAA programs contribute directly to developing action plans for nine technical areas of the Gulf program: Habitat degradation, marine debris, freshwater inflow, nutrient enrichment, toxic substances and pesticides, data and information transfer, public outreach, public health, and coastal erosion. One example of our contributions is a NOAA-developed model that is being used by the Gulf program to assess the impact of the nutrient control strategies for the Mississippi and Atchafalaya River outflows.

In closing, I hope I have been successful in meeting the committee's request to discuss the framework of the budget and how it reflects the growing awareness in both the public and private sectors of the long-term significance of environmental issues. This is NOAA's package. Our priorities evidence what NOAA offers the Nation and how the agency can fulfill President Clinton's goals of a sound economy and exemplary service.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to present NOAA's Fiscal Year 1994 budget request. We will be happy to answer any questions that the subcommittee may have.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Josephson can be found at the end of the hearing.]

Mr. ORTIZ. Thank you very much. Mr. Moxam, would you like to add something to the testimony or include anything else that—

Mr. MOXAM. No, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ORTIZ. At this time, I have a few, brief questions, and one of my questions has to do with \$81 million in the House-passed economic stimulus package. Now, if the stimulus package were not enacted, how would this affect NOAA and the 1994 budget? Is this something that you are planning on now?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Yes. It is something we are planning on now. Well, let us take the different elements of it because the answer is different, obviously, for each element. In the case of the money, the \$21 million which is available for MARDI, currently under the \$81 million stimulus package, that money is designed to staff up the new Weather Service Offices with the new equipment such as the NEXRAD radar. If this money is not available, that process will be

delayed, and we will have to request the equivalent of that money or roughly that amount in the Fiscal Year 1995 budget.

In the data modernization and high performance computing area, if we don't get the money, the equipment and services that we were going to obtain through those amounts would be moved until a later date in the budget, and that is equally true for the money going to Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and to NMFS. We have a request for NMFS for the balance of the computers needed for their IT-95 network. We are starting that process this year with \$3 million, but they need \$9 million more to complete the first phase of that system. So if we don't get the stimulus package, we will have to work toward those goals over a longer period of time.

Mr. ORTIZ. Now, it is my understanding that the President's budget as submitted is over the spending limits contained in Fiscal Year 1994 budget resolution. Again, this is over what the House has passed, and how would this affect NOAA's budget as well? Will there be across-the-board reductions to bring it into line with the budget resolution, or how would you work that portion of it?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Yes. I understand that is an issue, but I am going to defer to Mr. Moxam to answer this one.

Mr. MOXAM. Mr. Chairman, we haven't started those discussions within the Administration. With the passage of the resolution, we do realize we have now a substantial difference between what we have in the investment requests and what is in the resolution, but we really haven't addressed it yet.

Mr. ORTIZ. I will ask just one more question before I yield to my good friend, Mr. Weldon. Now, NOAA has significant responsibilities for resource management. Among these are marine fisheries, coastal zone management, and the National Marine Sanctuary Program. In the Fiscal Year 1994 budget request, the Department of Interior received significant increases for resource management. Why has NOAA been unwilling to or unable to achieve similar success?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. I don't think it is a question of us being unwilling. We did receive a budget increase this year. I am not familiar with the size of Interior's increase. The practical difficulty which faced us this year is that this is the high year in the weather service modernization. The request for the modernization is at a peak in Fiscal Year 1994 and then begins to come down in Fiscal Year 1995 and thereafter. We believed that this was a process we had to continue with the additional resources which were made available to us. The requirements in the modernization ate up a vast proportion of what was available and left us with little left to assign to other requirements of NOAA.

Mr. ORTIZ. If I understand correctly, we were told—my staff at a staff briefing that expenditures for the weather service modernization will decrease after Fiscal Year 1994—

Ms. JOSEPHSON. 1995.

Mr. ORTIZ. Oh, 1995?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Then I misunderstand your question because I am being told it is correct. Could you say it again?



Mr. ORTIZ. Yes. My staff was told at a staff briefing that expenditure for the weather modernization will decrease after Fiscal Year 1994.

Ms. JOSEPHSON. After.

Mr. ORTIZ. There is reason to believe that this is not the case so where do we stand?

Mr. MOXAM. Mr. Chairman, as we look at the other numbers as they stood for all the weather service modernization efforts, and in this we include satellites and WFO construction, we expect a drop in the magnitude of \$100 million by Fiscal Year 1995 in those requirements. There are a number of issues that could affect this number. As Diana has mentioned, we have the issue of the economic stimulus package. Of course, if we didn't get that money, it is another area we would have to address in 1995, but as it stands right now, we do expect a drop in 1995.

Mr. ORTIZ. I yield to my friend, Mr. Weldon.

Mr. WELDON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we have a vote, I will have to submit some questions for the record. Ms. Josephson, my first question has to do with the National Undersea Research Program. We had witnesses testify several weeks ago, one of whom was Dr. Sylvia Earle, who stated that as a nation, we are woefully inadequate in terms of our resource commitment for undersea and oceanographic research. This Congress has recognized that, and I say that in a bipartisan way. We are not here, however, to speak for the past Administration. We are here to speak for what our commitment is. Our commitment to this program in the last session was \$16 million. Is NURP a priority for NOAA, and if it is, how do you justify cutting it back to 2 million?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. I should point out to you that the Administration has for the first time requested money for NURP.

Mr. WELDON. We are aware of that. Once again, however, you are not talking of the previous Administration. Rather, you are talking about bipartisan members of Congress who have supported the program financially. What we are asking is why is the commitment being cut back from \$16 million to \$2 million?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. This year it was a lower priority. Our priorities this year were to continue the modernization of the weather service and to restore base programs at NOAA. And we have not managed yet to restore and fully fund the other basic activities that NOAA is accountable for. So in light of that, we couldn't justify requesting the additional \$14 million.

Mr. WELDON. My understanding is that the money will be used for diving safety and technology. Now, I am not trying to trivialize research in diving safety and technology research, but I know there are many other important priorities going on at the NURP research centers, and I would like to ask how you arrived at diving safety and technology research as the top priority for this program?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. We viewed this \$2 million as the core program for NURP. It covers the ALVIN and the work of the deep sea submersibles plus, you are right, it does include some money for diving safety, but it also includes some money for additional research. Maybe, Ned, you would like to respond to that, the other research that it includes?



Mr. OSTENSO. Yes. It covers the one responsibility of the NURP program that is explicitly specified in law. Under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, there is a title—the exact number of which I can't remember—that charges NOAA with the responsibility for research in diver safety, and we feel that that is something we have to maintain because it is required by law.

Mr. WELDON. With a \$2 million budget, is it your testimony that we can continue an aggressive undersea research program through the National Undersea Research Program? Are you satisfied that \$2 million will, in fact, allow us to do that for Fiscal Year 1994?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. There are many areas of the NOAA budget that I am not satisfied with because it does not allow us to do everything we would like to do. This area, like many others, falls in that category. But this year with the resources we had available to us, this, in our best judgment, was where we needed to be in light of all the other demands on the NOAA budget.

Mr. WELDON. Well, I would say that I think in your capacity, we would hope that you would speak out for those priorities that you feel are important. As we, in Congress, deliberate on what amount of money to spend on what priorities that we, in fact, support, perhaps we can come to support those priorities of NOAA that both of us will agree on what they should be. That happens continuously in this process that we are involved in. However, I, for one, am not happy with the proposed funding level and feel that this is an issue that this subcommittee will probably address.

My second concern deals with the fleet modernization and ship-building conversion funding level. In your testimony you state that funds appropriated in 1993 and in addition in Fiscal Year 1994 will be sufficient to continue the modernization program. You also state that this plan is a continued priority of the Administration. Yet, you are proposing a \$4.5 million decrease. I don't understand the rationale behind that. Perhaps you can explain that to me.

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Well, again, I think last year's request for fleet modernization was \$2 million, and so this is a big increase from the Administration's point of view in the request of \$23 million. We do support fleet modernization, and as I mentioned, the current request includes the money required to obtain two vessels from the Navy, to repair an existing NOAA vessel and to keep the fleet going. Again, it is not as much as we would like, but in light of other demands this year, we could not go higher.

Mr. WELDON. Well, before I ask unanimous consent to include a question for Mr. Saxton and submit my other questions, I would like to say that, as a Republican, I don't particularly appreciate you coming in today and presenting with us a budget request and comparing it to the last 12 years of the Reagan and Bush administration. I, in fact, disagreed with many of the funding levels in Reagan and Bush's proposed budgets. We are asking today what the Clinton Administration is going to do in this regard. We don't want you to tell us how you are going to improve a request that none of us agree with up here. We want to know what you are going to do. We are basing our concerns upon comments that were made during the campaign and now as a commitment to the programs of NOAA.

We don't want to hear that you have increased funding over what the previous Presidents requested in the last 12 years because many of us disagreed with that. This Congress didn't agree with those requests, that is for sure. In a bipartisan way, we opposed those budget requests and put our votes up to provide adequate money for these programs. I am not happy with the Fiscal Year 1994 budget request in many of these areas. I think some of my other colleagues probably feel the same way that I do. I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. ORTIZ. We have two votes. We have five minutes left on one vote and then another vote. We are going to recess briefly for at least 10 or 15 minutes, and then we will continue with this hearing.

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Thank you.

[Recess.]

Mr. ORTIZ. I am sorry, but it was a long recess. Some other people were waiting. They were anticipating another vote which might still occur, but some of the other members of the subcommittee are busy doing something else—other hearings and other meetings. At this time, I would like to submit—I know that several members who couldn't be with us today would like to submit some questions to you and then you can respond in writing.

Ms. JOSEPHSON. That would be great. I would be happy to do that.

Mr. ORTIZ. Now, I do have a couple of questions before, and I would submit others in writing to you. NOAA has significant responsibilities for resource management. Among these are the marine fisheries—I think that I asked that question, Sheila, before. NOAA's request for Climate and Global Change research more or less includes the \$20 million that was transferred to NOAA from the State Department for those activities in the current fiscal year. Do you anticipate large increases in the future requests for global change research for NOAA? In other words, can we expect a similar request for the next year or so?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. I guess I don't know the answer to that question.

Mr. MOXAM. In general, the planning figures indicate a straight line, but as I am sure you are well aware, Mr. Chairman, this is an annual budgeting process, and the groups haven't gotten together to figure out what the 1995 program would look like. The Fiscal Year 1994 request of \$69.9 million includes a planning level of \$84 million for Fiscal Year 1995 to continue NOAA's contributions to the USGCRP. The government-wide planning ceilings anticipate growth in all the USGCRP agencies' budgets for Fiscal Year 1995. After Fiscal Year 1995 increases would be for special initiatives.

Mr. ORTIZ. See, we want to assure you that we want to work with you, but most of us have questions, and we have different—maybe not so much different priorities but concerns. And we want to assure you that we want to work with you, and we will be talking as the year progresses—we will be talking to you. Now, when we talk about the previous Administration, NOAA officials maintained that NOAA was primarily a science agency. Does NOAA still believe that to be the case?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Well, I guess my personal view is that everything that NOAA does is based on science, but, obviously, it has responsi-

bilities, such as delivering short-term warnings and forecasts which have to do with the safety of life and property. We provide services to people which are based on scientific research. I haven't thought previously about how to characterize NOAA, but I think I would say that it is a service and regulatory agency based heavily on science.

Mr. ORTIZ. We certainly appreciate your testimony today and your help, and we will be—we have another member just walking in, and she might have some questions before we adjourn. Would you like to ask any questions?

Ms. ESHOO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and excuse me for holding up the works here. I have a couple of questions that I would like to ask relative to the President's request in the CZMA program which is \$8 million more than the Administration's request last year. I am very familiar with the use of these funds because they have come through the California Coastal Commission and then been applied in the Bay area on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. In fact, due to inflation and the entry of more states into the program, the program has actually seen a 52% reduction in funding over the past 10 years. Do you foresee any increases in funding for this program in the future that would actually provide better coastal protection? California's is certainly one of the most magnificent in this country and in the world. Can you comment on that please?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. In the Fiscal Year 1994 budget request, there is no increase requested for coastal zone management. There is level funding requested for the grant program under Section 306. We are currently looking right now at the Fiscal Year 1995 budget request, and we are looking at coastal requirements as well as living marine resources; the other side of NOAA which we were not able to fund fully this year. But I can't tell you at this moment where we are going to come out because our process has only just started.

Ms. ESHOO. Oh. Well, I want to pursue that a little. There is, I think, a case to be made relative to the size of the state and the needs that are there, and I don't know whether it is a function of the Administration not seeing it as a priority or whether within the bureaucracy itself it has not been advocated. I think that it is very important. When you look at the amount of the dollars today in comparison to yesterday, it is clear, budgets have shrunk. It is a tough job to enforce and keep up what the laws require. And I would think that it would be a priority within the agency.

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Well, I can tell you the bureaucracy is advocating for it. The—

Ms. ESHOO. Did you advocate for an increase?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. I am saying within NOAA there was considerable advocacy for an increase. The difficulty for us was, as I mentioned earlier, that this year was the peak of the weather service modernization so the additional resources that we were able to obtain primarily went to weather service modernization. We felt that that was our top priority at this time.

Ms. ESHOO. Well, I understand that there is a cap that was way below what we are eligible for under the funding formula, and when we talk about funding formulas, most frankly, you all are the ones that know them best. I think that it is very important that



that advocacy come from within the agency, and that is why I am asking you about it.

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Right, and I agree with that. I should mention that limits have been placed on the coastal zone management program in appropriations acts so we do have some limits within which we are operating. Do you want to expound on that?

Mr. MOXAM. Yes.

Ms. ESHOO. What is the peak year for the weather service modernization program?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. 1994.

Ms. ESHOO. 1994?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Yes.

Ms. ESHOO. So that is what we will see the most funding. So when do you look to roll in what you just said the agency will advocate looking at—

Ms. JOSEPHSON. We are looking at the FY—

Ms. ESHOO [continuing]. relative to CZMA funds?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. We are looking at the Fiscal Year 1995 request right now. We started that process. We have not got fully into the—we are just starting the dollar part of it. We have been looking at it from a point of view of a strategic plan for NOAA, where we think NOAA should be going over the next 10 years, and we are just beginning to cost out what we would like to do. The concerns of the coastal communities are one of the many elements that we are looking at. But we are not at a point where I can tell you specifically what we are going to do because I just don't know at the moment.

Ms. ESHOO. Well, I think that we can—

Ms. JOSEPHSON. But I hear what you are saying.

Ms. ESHOO [continuing]. certainly—

Ms. JOSEPHSON. I hear what you are saying.

Ms. ESHOO [continuing]. talk about what some of the overarching issues are relative to values, and then you start developing policies and budgets that follow that.

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Correct.

Ms. ESHOO. And I think that, obviously, it is critical to—the National Weather Service funded under NOAA is really eating up most of the budget priorities. Is it not?

Ms. JOSEPHSON. At this point, it is getting the majority of the increase. Yes. This year particularly. Of our \$285 million increase, it received \$217 million.

Ms. ESHOO. I think that is all that I would like to ask. Let me just add a statement to that if I haven't spoken with clarity. I don't want the issue of CZMA funding to be let go of. There is an awful lot that is attached to that, and I have seen—most frankly, you know, so many Federal dollars are criticized because by the time they get into the local communities, there seems to be such a diminishing return.

As someone that came from local government, from county government and seeing how these dollars were applied regionally—the CZMA funds—and they are outside the lines of my congressional district and throughout California—it is really a wonderful, wonderful application of Federal dollars. In fact, those communities and agencies that use them cannot be without them. I would hope

that as you build your priorities that you will remember this because I can't help but think that it is—I know that it is very important, and I have seen the application, and it works. Thank you.

Mr. ORTIZ. Thank you. The gentlewoman—if she has got any further questions, we can submit them in writing, and they will respond to us. I would also like to ask unanimous consent to include the statement by Mr. William Hughes. Any objection? So ordered.

[Statement of Mr. Hughes follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM J. HUGHES, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW JERSEY

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing today on the proposed Fiscal Year 1994 budget for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA funds several important programs including the National Ocean Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, the Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Programs and the National Weather Service.

I am pleased that this budget reflects the 1993 appropriations and, thus, includes funding for several of the programs which have traditionally been zeroed-out by the previous administration. However, I am concerned that the majority of the increase in NOAA's budget, some 96%, is directed to the National Weather Service and the National Environmental Satellite and Data Information Service, while ocean and Great Lakes funding would be decreased by 22%.

How does this balance affect NOAA's commitment to marine science and to the preservation and protection of the coastal, ocean and Great Lakes environments and their associated living marine resources?

I am also very concerned about the status of the National Undersea Research Program. While minimal funding for the Center is included in the budget, funding for all 6 undersea research centers has been eliminated. These centers perform a vital service in researching the undersea environment, including the effects of ocean dumping, fisheries recruitment, and ocean dynamics. How does NOAA anticipate accomplishing these vital activities without the NURP Centers?

Other programs within NOAA that are of concern to me include the National Sea Grant College Program, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the Coastal Zone Management Program, oyster disease research, fisheries development, highly migratory species, and the fisheries observer program.

These programs, in addition to many others, are of immense importance to New Jersey's coastal economy and the health of New Jersey's marine ecosystem. I am eager to see these vital programs continue to be funded at levels adequate to address the protection and wise use of our coastal and ocean waters and resources.

I will close my remarks by welcoming the panel. I look forward to their testimony in hopes that it will address these concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ORTIZ. I certainly again appreciate your testimony and attendance today. We apologize for all the inconveniences, and this is getting to be a form of working around here where we have a series of votes. But, again, thank you very much, and we will work with you. Thank you.

Ms. JOSEPHSON. Thank you very much.

Mr. ORTIZ. The meeting is now adjourned. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 3:01 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned, and the following was submitted for the record:]

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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on**  
**Merchant Marine and Fisheries**  
 Room 1334, Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515-6230

April 15, 1993

BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Oceanography, Gulf of Mexico and the Outer Continental Shelf

FR: Subcommittee Staff

RE: Hearing on the Fiscal Year 1994 Budget of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

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On April 20, 1993, the Subcommittee on Oceanography, Gulf of Mexico and the Outer Continental Shelf will hold a hearing on the Fiscal Year 1994 budget of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The hearing will convene at 2:00 P.M. in room 1334, Longworth House Office Building.

I. NOAA BACKGROUND AND GENERAL BUDGET SUMMARY

The total budget authority requested for NOAA in FY 1994 is \$1,924,149,000 which represents a 9.7% increase above the previous Administration's request for FY 1993. The FY 1994 request is \$82.7 million (4.7%) above the enacted FY 1993 Congressional appropriation level of \$1,654,382,000. A major change in this year's budget is the use of FY 1993 appropriation levels, with adjustments for changes in fixed costs, as the base level for FY 1994. This is in contrast to past NOAA budgets which used the previous year's Presidential request, which was usually much less. As a result, many programs which have been annually reinstated by Congress are now included in the FY 1994 NOAA base.

The NOAA budget consists of several accounts, the primary one being the Operations, Research, and Facilities account (OR&F) which incorporates the majority of NOAA's programs and the administration of these activities. The OR&F account is divided among five NOAA line offices: National Ocean Service (NOS), Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Weather Service (NWS), and National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS). Of main interest to the Subcommittee is the budget for NOS and OAR.

The total FY 1994 funding request for the OR&F account is \$1.76 billion, or 92% of NOAA's total request of \$1.92 billion. Requests for important NOAA accounts are listed below:

FY 1994 BUDGET REQUEST FOR MAJOR NOAA ACCOUNTS (\$ THOUSANDS)

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	*		<u>CHANGE FROM</u> <u>FY94 BASE</u>	
	<u>FY94</u>	<u>BASE</u>		<u>FY94</u>
Operations, Research, and Facilities	1,528,354		1,757,672	+229,398
Fleet Modernization, Shipbuilding and Conversion	27,594		23,064	-4,530
Construction	91,630		79,063	-12,567
Promote and Develop American Fisheries		0	0	0
Fishing Vessels and Gear Damage Compensation Fund	1,335		1,335	0
Fishermen's Contingency Fund	1,051		1,051	0
Foreign Fishing Observer Fund	564		564	0

II. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FY 1994 BUDGET SUBMISSION

NOAA Line Offices of particular interest to the Subcommittee are outlined below. Of particular interest are the numerous programs which have historically been reduced or zero-funded in the Administration request and are now accepted as part of the FY 1994 Line Office base. Included in this category are the National Marine Sanctuaries Program and state grants programs such as the Coastal Zone Management Program, the National Sea Grant College Program, and the Regional Marine Research Program. The National Undersea Research Program has been minimally funded in the FY94 budget request and is discussed below.



III. OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES (OAR) ACCOUNT SUMMARY

The following is a breakdown of the Administration's OR&F account request:

## NOAA OR&amp;F ACCOUNT (\$ THOUSANDS)

<u>FUNCTION</u>	<u>FY 93 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY 1994 BASE</u> *	<u>FY 94 REQUEST</u>	<u>CHANGE FROM FY94 BASE</u>
NOS	142,569	152,823	148,826	-3,997
NMFS	221,525	218,733	224,043	+5,310
OAR	193,708	204,084	214,097	+10,013
NWS	501,053	527,110	673,100	+145,990
NESDIS	437,988	349,909	429,197	+79,288
PROGRAM SUPPORT	155,702	145,995	145,109	-886
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1,652,545</u>	<u>1,598,654</u>	<u>1,834,372</u>	<u>+235,718</u>

\* FY94 Base Levels reflects the FY 1993 appropriation plus changes and additions in fixed costs (such as rent, salaries, etc.) that would be necessary to sustain programs and activities in FY94 at FY93 appropriation levels.

A. National Ocean Service (NOS)

The National Ocean Service manages ocean and coastal resources, particularly in the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone; provides ocean observations; produces nautical and aeronautical charts; and performs geodetic surveys. The programs funded under this line office include activities related to licensing responsibility for deep-seabed hard minerals, ocean services, the Coastal Zone Management Program, the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, and the Coastal Ocean Program.

The total funding request for NOS is \$148.8 million, a decrease of 1.3% from the FY 1993 appropriation. The NOS request includes level funding of the Coastal Zone Management Program (\$40 million) and non-point pollution control (\$1.9 million). Additionally, \$8.8 million is requested for Ocean Management, which includes the Marine Sanctuaries Program. The request for the NOAA cross-cutting Coastal Ocean Program (\$11.9 million) is shown under the NOS line. Minimal increases are included to maintain NOS operations.

Decreases for NOS include zero-funding of the following programs:

	<u>FY 1994 Base Levels</u>
SC cooperative geodetic survey	(\$554,000)
Land information systems	(\$1,674,000)
Observation buoys	(\$540,000)
Institute for Marine Engineering	(\$500,000)
Marine protective structures	(\$100,000)
NY harbor water quality model	(\$75,000)
Maui algal bloom crisis	(\$450,000)
Charleston, SC management plan	(\$960,000)
Hawaii humpback marine sanctuary	(\$144,000)

Increases for NOS are \$2.5 million for the geodesy base program, and \$1 million for observation and prediction base funding.

#### B. Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research programs provide the research and technique development necessary to improve NOAA services and provide the scientific bases for national policy decisions. Research is conducted by NOAA and university scientists through a network of 11 Environmental Research Laboratories, 29 Sea Grant programs, 6 Undersea Research Centers, and 8 cooperative institutes with universities.

OAR consists of three program areas: Ocean and Great Lakes Programs (\$63.1 million), Climate and Air Quality Research (\$109 million) and Atmospheric programs (\$42.1 million). The FY 1994 OAR budget includes level funding for the National Sea Grant College Program (\$39.8 million), and inclusion of the VENTS program, the Regional Marine Research Program (\$4 million) and the National Undersea Research Program (\$2 million).

OAR decreases include a \$13.9 million reduction for the National Undersea Research Program which would terminate funding for all six regional research centers (University of Connecticut, University of North Carolina, University of Hawaii, University of Alaska, Rutgers University, and the Caribbean Undersea Research Center), leaving \$2 million for National programs (including funding for the ALVIN submersible). Additional programs of Subcommittee interest for which no funds are requested include:

	<u>FY 1994 Base levels</u>
SE Florida and Caribbean recruitment Studies	(\$1,000,000)
GLERL zebra mussels	(\$911,000)
Lake Champlain study	(\$190,000)
Pacific island tech assistance	(\$190,000)
Sea Grant zebra mussel	(\$2,800,000)
National Coastal R&D Institute	(\$1,300,000)

Increases for OAR programs include \$2.6 million for high performance computing, \$23 million for climate and global change, \$2.1 million for the Regional Marine Research Program, and slight increases in the base funding of each program area. The High Performance Computing and Climate and Global Change programs are NOAA cross-cutting programs which appear in the OAR line item, but are actually administered individually.

#### C. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

The National Marine Fisheries Service is the steward of the Nation's living marine resources. Activities of NMFS include surveying fishery and marine mammal stocks, collecting catch data, and conducting fishery research to support resource management. The total request of \$224 million for NMFS activities includes \$128.8 million for conservation and management, and \$23.5 million for state and industry assistance programs. The NMFS budget will be dealt with in detail in a subsequent hearing by the Fisheries Management Subcommittee.

#### D. National Weather Service (NWS) and the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS)

Increases of \$146 million and \$79 million are proposed for NWS and NESDIS, respectively, which accounts for the majority of NOAA'S total budget increase for FY 1994. Of interest to the Subcommittee is the continued support for the marine radiofacsimile program to provide the marine community with weather warnings, forecasts and oceanographic information.

#### E. Program Support

Decreases of \$885,000 are proposed for this activity through termination of funding for the marine electronics agenda (\$700,000) and the New England Science Center (\$185,000).

#### F. Construction

An increase of \$14.7 million is requested for continuation of NWS modernization. This is offset by \$27.2 million in decreases through termination of funding for eight primarily one-time construction projects.

#### G. Fleet Modernization Shipbuilding and Conversion

A total of \$23 million, a decrease of \$4.5 million, is requested for fleet modernization and conversion in order to complete all routine and critical maintenance, initiate a repair-to-extend, and continue conversion of a Navy T-AGOS ship. The Subcommittee is currently awaiting NOAA'S detailed fleet modernization plan, which must be submitted to Congress before the fleet modernization contracts can be let.

ISSUES

- 1) NOAA has approximately \$81 Million in the House-passed economic stimulus package. If the stimulus package were not enacted, how would this affect NOAA and its FY 1994 budget?
- 2) The President has proposed a \$4.53 million decrease in funds expended for ship construction and modernization. How would this affect NOAA's ability to conduct oceanographic research? How does this funding request impact NOAA's fleet modernization plans?
- 3) The only line office suffering a reduction in the funding from its FY 93 level is the National Ocean Service, which administers the Coastal Zone Management Act, the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, and NOAA's international ocean mining activities. Does this cut in funding represent a lack of support for NOAA's coastal programs?
- 4) NOAA proposes to eliminate 144 positions. From which programs would these reductions come?
- 5) How would cuts in the budget for the National Ocean Service affect NOAA's ability to update nautical charts?
- 6) While NOAA received a net increase of over \$200 million, the bulk of the increase went, as it has for many years, to NWS and NESDIS. Specifically, while NWS, NESDIS, and the atmospheric programs under OAR received a net increase of over \$250 million, NOS and the ocean programs under OAR were cut by almost \$22 million. Why does NOAA give its "dry" programs priority over ocean and coastal resource management and research?
- 7) NOAA officials have stated that FY94 is the peak year for expenditures for the NWS modernization. When will this spending begin to drop off and at what rate?
- 8) NOAA has significant responsibilities for resource management, among these are marine fisheries, coastal zone management and the National Marine Sanctuary Program. In the FY94 budget request, the Department of Interior received significant increases for resource management. Why has NOAA been unwilling or unable to achieve similar success?
- 9) In the previous Administration, NOAA officials maintained that NOAA was primarily a science agency. Does NOAA still believe that to be the case?
- 10) Why has NOAA decided to eliminate funding for the regional Undersea Research Centers? How does NOAA plan to conduct the research that has historically been funded through these Centers?

## TESTIMONY OF

DIANA JOSEPHSON  
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY  
FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANOGRAPHY,  
GULF OF MEXICO, AND THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF  
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
APRIL 20, 1993

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, I am pleased to appear before you today in support of the President's FY 1994 Budget request. I will try to address the areas that you highlighted in your letter of invitation.

The total NOAA request for FY 1994 is \$1.92 billion. Of the total, \$1.76 billion are in the Operations, Research and Facilities (OR&F) appropriation, \$79.1 million are in the Construction appropriation, \$23.1 million are in the Fleet Modernization and Ship Conversion appropriation, and \$2.95 million are requested for various fisheries funds. The Budget includes a total transfer of \$62.9 million from the Promote and Develop American Fisheries account and the Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund as offsets to the OR&F account.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's FY 1994 Budget request ensures that we will continue to meet the urgent environmental needs of the 1990s. Our FY 1994 request addresses three broad priorities:

- Continued modernization of the Nation's weather services -- an increase of \$217 million;
- Maintenance of critical operations in fisheries, ocean and coastal management, oceanic and atmospheric research, and other core NOAA activities -- \$46.5 million;
- Investment in global change research and high performance computing -- an increase totalling \$25.6 million.

NOAA's priorities are critical activities that serve the Nation and support the Administration's goals. As articulated in Vision of Change for America, "The Administration's initiatives offer certain proof that environmental protection and economic growth can -- and must -- go hand in hand."

I will begin my testimony detailing the NOAA activities that have historically been of most interest to the Subcommittee, those of the National Ocean Service (NOS), the Coastal Ocean Program (COP), the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), and the Office of Global Programs (OGP). NOAA's agenda for the 1990s includes rededication to the stewardship of the Nation's natural and living marine resources. Our work, including the research to develop science-based policy options, cannot be undertaken without proper resources.

#### National Ocean Service

The National Ocean Service (NOS) is NOAA's lead steward of the



Nation's ocean and coastal resources. NOS facilitates the effective management of the coastal zone and ocean as well as the protection of life, property, and the environment through its ocean observations. NOS requests funding of \$148.8 million in FY 1994 to fulfill its duties. NOS is requesting \$48.1 million to undertake mapping, charting, and geodetic work, \$49.9 million for observation and assessment, and \$50.8 million for ocean and coastal management activities.

Two NOS programs reflecting our duties as steward of the Nation's coastal resources are the National Marine Sanctuary program and the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program. NOS expects to have designated 14 National Marine Sanctuaries by the end of FY 1994. The FY 1994 budget proposes no change in the current funding of \$7 million for sanctuaries nor in the current funding of \$33.5 million for Section 306 (State Assistance Grants) of the Coastal Zone Management Act. I want to emphasize that the \$33.5 million requested for the CZM program is the same level as last year's appropriation, the first time in twelve years that level funding for the program has been requested.

Program increases of \$3.5 million in the FY 1994 Budget request are essential for maintaining current operations and staffing for NOS. Without the basic operational funds requested, NOS would have to reduce the geodetic activities related to the National Geodetic Reference System. These activities are critical to rebuilding the



Nation's infrastructure. Moreover, there would not be sufficient funds to operate and maintain tide gauges, resulting in significant degradation of the network. This in turn would lead to deterioration in the accuracy of tide predictions, nautical charts, and storm surge predictions. The Circulatory Program would not be able to keep pace with circulation changes in the Nation's estuaries, bays and coastal areas. These impacts could result in a visible drop in the quality of tide and current tables vital for the safety of maritime commerce. Finally, there would be no processing, analysis or distribution of global sea level data or products derived from satellite altimeter measurements.

#### **Coastal Ocean Program**

NOAA's ocean budget for FY 1994 also includes continued support for its crosscutting Coastal Ocean Program's (COP) efforts to improve predictions and information delivery in the areas of fisheries productivity, coastal environmental quality, and coastal flooding. Of particular interest to the Subcommittee in FY 1994, the COP will continue specific efforts to: (1) determine impacts of nutrient loading in the Gulf of Mexico; (2) understand fishery ecosystems on Georges Bank, and in the Bering Sea and the South Atlantic Bight; (3) map changes in seagrass, wetlands, and watershed characteristics; (4) evaluate the biological effects of toxic contamination in Tampa Bay, West Florida, Boston Harbor, the Hudson-Raritan estuary and South Carolina estuaries; (5) improve capabilities to forecast coastal hazards; and (6) provide coastal

managers and researchers with high-resolution sea surface temperature products derived from NOAA's weather satellites. Through the COP, NOAA also will continue to lead Federal interagency coordination of U.S. coastal ocean science activities through the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology (FCCSET).

#### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research**

The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) serves as NOAA's principal research base and focuses on anticipatory research, development of advanced technologies and systems, and investigation of natural phenomena having societal significance with the goal of improving predictive skills. Through OAR, thousands of scientists, engineers, technicians and graduate students are involved in issues of national concern. The investment represented by these people and their facilities provides critical knowledge which supports and guides national environmental policies and promotes economic growth through science and technology.

In the oceans and coastal areas, OAR has three major objectives: (1) increasing understanding of coastal and marine processes for the purpose of predicting environmental changes; (2) providing information to protect the quality and value of the Nation's marine and estuarine resources; and (3) providing the technical basis for enhancing the Nation's marine economic sector.

In FY 1994, OAR is requesting an increase of \$7.7 million, to maintain on-going research and operations in several areas. These funds would allow for full operation (24 hours per day, 7 days a week) of space weather data collection, forecasts, and warnings. This activity is crucial to satellite operations, space exploration, high frequency communications, and electric power distribution. Increased funds also would allow NOAA to understand factors affecting marine resources, support management activities on critical coastal quality issues, and apply valuable new remote sensor data streams to environmental problems.

Funds would be used to maintain the global greenhouse gas measurements, address scientific issues associated with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, reinstate advanced weather forecasting development, and refine remote sensing technologies for observing and predicting severe weather events. In addition, increased funds would provide for an expansion of the Regional Marine Research program. This program funds research on environmental quality conditions in the coastal and marine waters, and addresses the mounting pressures that threaten their ecological integrity.

#### **Maintain Critical Funding for Other NOAA Activities**

Full funding of \$145 million must be provided for Program Support or the administrative services supporting all NOAA line offices such as procurement, personnel and grants administration will be affected.

### National Weather Service and Systems Funding

Weather service modernization (satellites, observing and processing systems, workforce transition, and construction of weather forecast offices) is one of our highest priorities. Modernization is already providing a critical measure of additional safety to our Nation's citizens. NOAA's weather research has led to significant improvements in our ability to forecast the track of hurricanes. More accurate and reliable weather alerts save more lives. Accurate predictions allowed the Nation to focus preparations for Hurricane Andrew, Hurricane Hugo, and Hurricane Iniki to specific areas, substantially reducing the potential loss of human life in the devastated areas. Recently, NOAA predicted with several days' notice the timing and severity of the East Coast "Storm of the Century."

The FY 1994 request of \$673.1 million for the National Weather Service (NWS) allows NOAA to continue providing critical weather services and maintain all current services of the NWS at their present levels, including the Marine Facsimile Program. The request also improves our capability to gather and assess environmental information. The FY 1994 request maintains current operations while moving ahead with modernization in accordance with all the applicable requirements of Public Law 102-567.

The FY 1994 request contains an investment increase of \$217.5 million for weather service modernization that allows NOAA to proceed with the following components of the program:

- Modernization and Associated Restructuring Demonstration and Implementation (MARDI).
- Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD).
- Weather Forecast Office (WFO) construction.
- The Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS/NOAAPORT).
- The Central Computer Center upgrade.
- Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS).
- Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES).
- Polar-Orbiting Satellite Program.

#### Investments in the Future

Global environmental issues are among the Administration's top priorities. Highlighted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in June 1992, these issues are addressed by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) in which NOAA's Climate and Global Change Program plays an important role. The document Putting People First notes that the United States must, "Exert international leadership to advance our own Nation's interest in a healthier global environment, a stable global climate, and global biodiversity..."

The FY 1994 request includes an appropriations increase for NOAA of \$23 million for Climate and Global Change activities, bringing the total of NOAA's funding for the program to \$70 million. Of the \$23 million requested, \$19 million will be used to continue high-priority research programs supported in FY 1993 with monies appropriated to the Department of State and transferred to NOAA. The request provides funding for NOAA participation in the USGCRP and allows the agency to continue its contribution to government-wide programs that are integrated through FCCSET. The funds will also allow NOAA to begin implementing the U.S. support for an International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, a commitment the United States made at UNCED.

The Climate and Global Change programs include observational, research, modeling, predictive assessment, and information management activities that provide insights into critical Earth System problems. These insights have significant long-term benefits. Work will be pursued in such areas as year to year climate forecasting, atmospheric chemistry, the role of the ocean in climate change, clouds, water and energy, and modeling. This modeling will eventually allow the Nation to reasonably anticipate on a variety of time scales (including seasonal, decadal and century) the nature and impacts of long-term climate change.

The FY 1994 request includes \$2.6 million for the FCCSET program in High Performance Computing and Communications (HPCC). These funds

will permit major improvements in the Nation's ability to forecast the weather and predict climate change. At the same time, these funds will help to stimulate gains in U.S. industrial competitiveness through the use of evolving high performance computing and high speed networking technologies. Finer resolution in global and regional models will result in better weather forecasting and warning services, especially for hazardous weather and flight safety.

#### **Marine Research**

For the first time in 12 years, the National Undersea Research Program (NURP) is also part of the Administration's Budget request. Funding of \$2 million has been proposed to continue national programs, including work undertaken with the ALVIN submersible and other deep diving facilities, research in diving safety, and technology development. Funding in the amount of \$4 million for the Regional Marine Research Program is requested for the first time.

#### **Fleet Modernization Status**

The first steps in modernization of the NOAA fleet began in FY 1992 and continue through FY 1994 with: the performance of critical and routine maintenance; the identification of detailed repair and construction requirements; the preparation of design and technical specifications; the transfer of two nearly new, surplus Navy ships and conversion of one of those ships to support oceanographic research; and the performance of repairs-to-extend the



service life of one NOAA ship. NOAA requests \$23 million for the Fleet Modernization program, a decrease of \$4.5 million from the FY 1994 base. Funds appropriated in FY 1993, in addition to the FY 1994 request, will be sufficient to continue the fleet modernization program. The Administration strongly supports the modernization of the NOAA Fleet and is continuing to review the full range of options for securing adequate days-at-sea.

#### **NOAA Contribution Towards a Coordinated National Program for the Gulf of Mexico**

In recognition of the Gulf of Mexico's value to the Nation, NOAA has focused its capabilities and resources on specific problems in the Gulf of Mexico states through its base activities and special programs. This includes a wide range of observational, assessment, research, management, and predictive services that are being used to address the growing concern over the environmental quality and economic sustainability of the Gulf's resources. NOAA has approximately 1,500 employees at 90 locations among the five coastal Gulf of Mexico states. NOAA maintains coastal and marine research facilities, National Estuarine Research Reserves, and National Marine Sanctuaries, oversees approved Coastal Zone Management Plans in three Gulf coastal states, and has direct ties to universities and colleges through the National Sea Grant Program.

NOAA also coordinates its efforts with other Federal agencies in the region. For example, NOAA is an active participant in four National Estuary Program sites in the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA is also a full

partner in the Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program, located at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. NOAA representatives serve on the Program's Executive Committee, Policy Review Board, Technical Steering Committee, and subcommittees. NOAA also has a full-time on-site coordinator at the Stennis facility. NOAA programs contribute directly to developing action plans for nine technical areas of the Gulf Program: Habitat Degradation; Marine Debris; Freshwater Inflow; Nutrient Enrichment; Toxic Substances and Pesticides; Data and Information Transfer; Public Outreach; Public Health; and Coastal Erosion. One example of our contributions is a NOAA-developed model that is being used by the Gulf Program to assess the impact of nutrient control strategies for the Mississippi and Atchafalaya River outflows.

#### **Administrative Savings and Terminations**

NOAA has assumed its share of the responsibility for deficit reduction by proposing administrative and personnel savings. As part of the President's commitment to cutting the cost of Federal Government and the size of the workforce, NOAA will achieve savings of \$25.6 million in FY 1994.

In order for NOAA to deliver more focused service, the FY 1994 budget also includes a number of decreases affecting: programs that benefit only small groups; programs whose purpose has been achieved; programs that are not NOAA's statutory responsibilities; or programs that involve lower priority activities. Support for NOAA's basic

program is essential, and the particular program cuts proposed by the Administration are intended to minimize any adverse effects on our ability to fulfill our responsibilities.

This is NOAA's package. Our priorities evidence what NOAA offers the Nation and how the agency can fulfill President Clinton's goals of a sound economy and exemplary service. NOAA can meet the President's challenge for a more efficient, effective Government serving people in the 21st century. In order to fulfill its mission to the best of its ability and meet the challenges of the 1990s, NOAA must have adequate financial resources in FY 1994. Working together, we can transform our vision and values into reality.

Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me the opportunity to present NOAA's FY 1994 Budget request. I will be happy to answer any questions the Subcommittee may have.



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